

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, February 13, 1711.

Misgrounded Reproach and Malice Founded upon Ignorance, ought never to move a wise Man, any farther than to Pity the Mistakes of the People that make use of them, or at most, to smile at the Folly: This Rule I endeavour to follow, when I find some People angry at the *Review*, because I Reprov'd some of our Whigs, for being willing to have the Publick Credit of the Nation run down.

But I smile at nothing so much in it, as that the *Guilty few*, would foolishly suggest, that I am running open Mouth'd at them all in General, as the Authors and

Causers of the Decay of our Credit ——— And away they run with the Notion upon the Poor *Review*, that he is turn'd about, become a High-Flyer, and is fasting upon the Whigs ——— Why, Gentlemen, what do you think I am driven like the King of S———, to run to the D——— I to get help to do the Work of God, to bring the *Mahometan* Tories upon the Nation to support the Christian Credit of Britain? ——— It would be much more Rational, for you to think I am turn'd Turk than High-Flyer, and to make me a *Mahometan* would not be half so Ridiculous, as to make me say the Whigs are running down Credit; when, on the
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contrary, I am still satisfy'd if there were no Whigs at this Time, there would hardly have been any such Thing as Credit left among us.——

Nor does this Contradict what I have been saying already; I never said there were no mistaken Men among the Whigs, and to shew them their Mistakes, as it is a Duty upon every Man that speaks in Publick, so they ought to take it for Service done to them.—— And if they do not, the Folly is theirs, not mine.

It is evident, where the Design of sinking our Credit began, and to what it tends: I am none of those that resolve every Thing I do not like, into *Jacobinism* and the *Pretender*; yet he must be blind, that does not see, the Original Design of breaking in upon the *English* Credit, began at *St. Germain's*; 'tis a *Jacobite* Plot against the Queen's Interest, and is Calculated to bring us under a Necessity of making easier Terms of Peace with *France*, and opening a Door by our Divisions, to the Restoration of the Pretender.

This is the Reason, why the wisest and best of those you call Whigs, tho' full of Resentment at some Measures taken, yet will not abandon the Publick Credit, because they will not give us up to *France*; and I shall not fail to do them Justice in the Course of this Paper, tho' not at all for fear of Resentment or Reproach of the Ignorant, who first are against the Credit itself, and secondly are Angry that so much Truth is told them, as to let the World know it.—— What would some Men have an Author do in this Case? If I press you to keep up the Credit, you say I am a Tory; if I should exhort you to run it down, I should be a Traytor.

If such Peoples Eyes are to be open'd, the Consequence of this Discourse will do it; if they are to remain Blind, I have no more to say, but that it shall not be my Fault.—— I shall therefore go on to let you see, that tho' the Support of Credit may in some degree assist to support those you are averse to; yet, That

1. The Ruin of our Credit is the View,

the Hope, and the meer Project of the *Jacobite* Party in this Nation, and in Concert with *France*, and of none but them and Mad Men.

2. That for this Reason, the Whigs in *Britain*, however disgusted and disobligh'd, or made uneasie; not only ought, but generally speaking DO, a few excepted, agree, that 'tis their Duty and their Interest, as *Britains*, to uphold the Nation's Credit at this Time, tho' it may clash with, and thwart their Interest as a Party.

I begin with the last of these, because the Circumstances of Things call for it.—— As I have been plain before, in Reproving those that Act otherwise without fear, so I shall be plain now, without making my Court to any Body.—— If any think I wrong'd them before, and that there are no such Men, I hope they will shew the World a Proof of it, by their Zeal for the Publick Good, in Assisting the Credit, which our Enemies seek so subtilly to Overthrow.

I am now to do Justice to those, who have been wiser than to fall into this *Jacobite* Snare; I will endeavour to do it without Flattery; 'tis a Debt to Truth to make the Enquiry, and I think it may serve for a Conviction to some People, who have pretended to Treat the Whigs in general, as Enemies to the Nation; and for this Reason I enter upon the Enquiry.

The State of the Question is, in short, this.

Whether the Whigs of this Nation, generally speaking, have not, in a meer Sense of Publick Danger, contrary to, and without considering their Party-Interest, work'd at the Pump, and assisted to keep the Ship (the *State*) from sinking, tho' all the Piloting part has been taken out of their Hands, and committed to Men they have no kindness for.

2. Have

2. Have these People been Treated suitably to ~~so~~ disinterested a Principle, and to Publish a Spirit ?

I begin with the first — Have the Whigs in this Nation Sacrificed their Private Resentment to the Publick Safety ? Are there Men among them, who tho' their Friends are displac'd, their Party suppress'd, their Interest broke, and such Pilots are Steering, as *they think*, would run away with the Cargo, if not with the Ship, yet have, for the safety of the Ship, taken their turn at the Pump, *when Leaky*, handed the Sails when *Stormy*, and stood to the Guns *when attack'd* by Pyrates, in hopes at last, to bring the Ship of State into some Port of Safety, when their other Differences may more Peaceably, and with less Danger be adjusted.

And now, as I have not fear'd offending the Whigs, by Reproving them openly, who have not come up to this truly Platonic Spirit — So for *Shame* Tories, do Justice to so much disinterested Gallantry of Principle, tho' it be in Whigs, tho' it be in Men you do not like — Are there among us Men, who tho' they hate your abject slavish Principles, who tho' they abhor your Non-Resisting Banter, *That Cheat with which you have mock'd God and your King*, who tho' they Scorn a Passive Subjecting the Laws to the Will and Lust of a Tyrant, and will *Vigorous*ly, and (we hope) *Successfully*, always with *stand* Arbitrary Power, by *whatsoever* Means it shall *Meditate* a return upon us, yet will not give up the Nation, tho' to pull down a *High Flying* Party, nor join with *France* against the High Flyers; that will rather help you, than let Popery prevail upon you, and assist you to their own Loss, than assist your Enemies to the General Ruin.

What will you call this ? Let us see a Name for it if you can ? — Rum-mage your ill Nature to load it with something selfish, and tell them they do it for their own Interest, *not for yours* — Yet you must allow then at the same Time, that the Whigs see the General Interest better than you — That you, like Mad-Men or Children, are running upon Precipices, and they stretch out their Hands to help you ; that you would give us blindly to *France*, and the Whigs are the only Men that save you.

I shall attempt, in Prosecution of this Argument, to prove the Matter of Fact, and resist it if you can — That the Measures of the present prevailing Party, the Publick Interest, the general Safety, and the only Support of the Nation, is still depending upon the generous Assistance and Concurrence of the Whigs, without which, neither could the Credit subsist, the Enemy be kept out, or the War carried on — And if this be done, either the High Flyers must have no Generosity — Or some new Step may yet be taken, to make Parties easier to one another.

And what will those Gentlemen say to this, who Represent the Whigs as the Men that would bring in the Pretender ? Will they have Grace enough to blush ? Or will they have Ingenuity enough to acknowledge they Treat Men hardly, who notwithstanding their Rude Behaviour, do not withhold their Hands from the Publick Burthen ; we shall see in the Prosecution of this part, what such People can have to say for themselves.

A D F E R

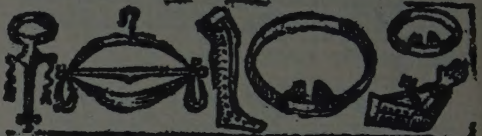
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